

STOREFRONT FOR ART & ARCHITECTURE
97 Kenmare Street, New York, NY 10012
Tel: 212-431-5795, Fax: 212-431-5755

March 15, 1995
For Immediate Release

Exhibition Announcement

Between War and Peace: Amnesia of Yalta

Komar and Melamid

April 8-May 9, 1995

Opening reception Saturday April 8, 6PM-8PM

Storefront for Art and Architecture is pleased to present **Between War and Peace: Amnesia of Yalta**, an installation by Komar and Melamid celebrating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

In 1945, at the end of World War II, and at the beginning of the U.N. era, a final meeting between Winston Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Josef Stalin convened. In an old photograph of the Yalta conference, the leaders pose for history's camera: we can feel the nations, centuries, and myths looming behind them.

Fifty years after the Yalta Conference, Komar and Melamid return to the image of the old photograph. Their plans for a mural entitled "Allies", which was to be painted near the United Nations Building, were rejected by city officials. Several versions of this public art proposal titled **Between War and Peace** have been created over the years and will be on exhibition at Storefront. A ballot box which will allow the viewer to vote for his or her favorite version is an integral part of the installation.

The results of the Yalta Conference divided the world into spheres of influence, decided what the world would look like, and placed the future balance of power in their hands, setting up the territories and issues of contention for the next war. What specifically transpired outside the official releases in the meeting room, what secret pacts were made, what unholy alliances forged we can only imagine. And we should.

The world bore the weight of decisions made at Yalta, without being asked. The architecture of that image now needs remodeling, and they ask us to work on it, consider it, find its inherent flaws and adjust them. Be careful, Komar & Melamid's work cautions, what appears to be nostalgia can be deceptive in its assumption of a complete past. The past is not finished and archived. Like knowledge the past should be revisited continually, and re-examined through the contingencies of the world as they change.

For more information, please contact Maura Jasper at 212-431-5795.